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HONGKONG, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1917.

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**THE WAR.**  
**TO-DAY'S TELEGRAMS.**  
(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

**THE CIVIL WAR IN RUSSIA.**  
**PARTICULARS OF THE FIGHTING AT TAMAROKA.**  
London, Dec. 12.  
Reuter's Correspondent at Petrograd reports that the recent fighting at Tamaroka was between detachments of shock battalions, who had declared against the Maximalists, and local troops, with sailors and Red Guards infantry and armoured cars sent from Petrograd, and troops from Ukharkoff. The fighting lasted all day and night. There were many casualties.  
The Daily Chronicle's Correspondent at Petrograd says the shock battalions numbered 8,000, including Turcomans, regular cavalry, engineers, and infantry. They left Mobile when the Headquarters surrendered, and were proceeding to the Caucasus by the last order of General Dukhomin when they encountered the Maximalist troops near Bielgorod.  
Generalissimo Krylenko arrived during the battle.  
The Railway Union reports that the shock battalions were defeated, but Cossack reinforcements from General Kaledin were coming up.

**SPLIT AMONG THE SOCIALISTS.**  
A decisive split has occurred at the congress of Revolutionary Socialists between the Left and Right groups.  
**RUSSIAN DIPLOMATS ABROAD DISMISSED.**  
The Commissary of Foreign Affairs has issued a decree dismissing all Russian diplomats abroad who have failed to notify their consent to serve under the Soviets.  
**MAXIMALIST MANIFESTO TO "BROTHER COSSACKS."**  
Petrograd, Dec. 12.  
The Maximalists have issued a manifesto to "Brother Cossacks" promising to hand over to them the estates of the landowners, and also an immediate armistice and peace, and urging them to arrest Generals Kaledin and Korniloff and their associates and hand them over to the Maximalists for public trial.  
**RUSSIA REPORTED TO BE DEMOBILISING.**  
AMSTERDAM, Dec. 12.  
A German semi-official statement says that Russian demobilisation has already begun.

**"DOUBTS" ARISING IN RUSSIA.**  
**FRICTION THREATENING TO INCREASE.**  
LONDON, Dec. 12.  
That friction threatens to increase between the Bolsheviks and the Germans is indicated by the following telegram from the Petrograd Bolshevik Agency:—  
The German Command on the Russo-German Fronts protests by wireless against the dissemination by aeroplane of leaflets signed by M. Lenin and M. Trotsky addressed to workmen and soldiers calling upon them to revolt. The German General considers this an intervention with the internal affairs of Germany. The Bolshevik organ *Pravda* replies by declaring that the Russian Delegation did not promise to pull down the Bolshevik flag. Statements contained in Herr Haase's speech on the occasion of an interpellation on the subject of the demonstrations in honour of the Russian revolution and general peace have raised doubts in Russian popular circles regarding the pacific intentions of the governing classes in Germany. The Russian Bourgeois Press is demanding offensive action and uses these statements as arguments against an armistice and peace.

**NEW GENERALISSIMO IN RUMANIA.**  
LONDON, Dec. 12.  
The Times Correspondent at Jassy reports that General Prezan has been appointed Rumanian Generalissimo.  
**RUMANIA SIGNS THE ARMISTICE.**  
LONDON, Dec. 12.  
A Rumanian official communiqué says:—"We have signed an armistice with the enemy."  
**JAPANESE TROOPS AT YLADIVOSTOK.**  
LONDON, Dec. 12.  
The Times Washington Correspondent says the Japanese Embassy confirms that Japanese troops have arrived at Vladivostok, reinforcing the Japanese Engineers who have been managing the port and the Trans-Siberian terminus for some time.

**INCENDIARY MANIFESTO WITHDRAWN.**  
Reuter's Correspondent at Petrograd, cabling yesterday, reports that the incendiary manifesto by the Military Revolutionary Committee cabled the previous night was withdrawn at the last moment.  
A number of processions, celebrating the opening of the Constituent Assembly, converged at Tauride Palaces outside which there was a succession of extempore meetings, but up till four o'clock in the afternoon there had been no disorders.  
**REVOLUTIONARY COURTS.**  
The Bolshevik Agency announces the establishment of Revolutionary Courts throughout Russia, consisting of soldiers, sailors, workmen, and workwomen elected by the local

**AUSTRIAN BATTLESHIP SUNK.**  
**ITALIAN RAID ON TRIESTE.**  
LONDON, Dec. 12.  
An Italian official report states:—"Our light craft on Sunday night penetrated the obstructions above and below water and entered Trieste. Four torpedoes were discharged against two warships of the Monarch class. All exploded.  
The battleship *Wien* was sunk. Our vessels returned safely despite the discharge of torpedoes and intense fire by the enemy."  
[The Monarch class of the Austrian Navy are ships of about 5,500 tons. The *Wien* was a ship of that tonnage built in 1907. Her principal armament was four 12-in. guns.]  
**GERMAN INTRIGUE IN MEXICO.**  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.  
The Times Washington Correspondent reports that German intrigues are rampant in Mexico. It is rumoured that Carranza has sent General Llanos to seize the Tampico field. This is a serious step in view of German activities.

## INTIMATIONS

## BANK HOLIDAY.

IN accordance with Ordinance No. 5 of 1912 the EXCHANGE BANKS will be CLOSED for the transaction of PUBLIC BUSINESS on SATURDAY, the 15th instant.

Hongkong, Dec. 12, 1917. 2331

## HONGKONG GOVERNMENT 6% WAR LOAN 1916.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that SCRIP CERTIFICATES may now be exchanged for definitive Bonds. Scrip Certificates should be handed in at the Hongkong Office of the HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION and Bonds of the same denominations will be issued in exchange.

E. D. G. WOLFE,

Colonial Treasurer.

Hongkong, Dec. 10, 1917. 2375

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Hongkong, Nov. 7, 1917. 2278

In the Matter of THE COMPANIES  
CONSOLIDATION ACT 1908.In the Matter of NATIONAL BANK  
OF CHINA, LIMITED.

(In Liquidation).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Seventh and Final return of Capital and Dividend at the rate of Four Cents (Hongkong Currency) per share will be paid on and after SATURDAY, the 22nd day of DECEMBER, 1917, at Noon to registered holders of A and B Shares upon Application to—  
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A. R. LOWE,

Liquidator.

Hongkong, Nov. 8, 1917. 2275

In the Matter of THE COMPANIES  
CONSOLIDATION ACT, 1908In the Matter of THE NATIONAL  
BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED.

(In Liquidation).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Final General Meeting of the above-named Company will be held at the office of the Liquidator, Chartered Bank Building, 3 Queen's Road, Central, Victoria, on the 22nd day of DECEMBER, 1917, at Noon, precisely, for the purpose of having the account of the Liquidator, showing the manner in which the winding-up has been conducted and the property of the Company disposed of, laid before such meeting, and of hearing any explanations that may be given by the Liquidator, and to pass his resignation, and also to pass the following Extraordinary Resolution, viz—  
That the Books, Accounts and Documents of the Company and of the Liquidator thereof be retained by the Liquidator, he undertaking to destroy the same at the expiration of five years from the dissolution of the Company.

A. R. LOWE,

Liquidator.

Hongkong, Nov. 5, 1917. 2279

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## GERMANY'S ARMIES

## INCREASE OF 322 BATTALIONS.

Mr. Henry Wood, special correspondent of the United Press with the French Armies, in an article written at the beginning of October, gives the following account of the enemy's situation in regard to man-power—  
By an intensification of mobilization that has drained Germany dry of every man capable of military service, the German fighting divisions on the French and Russian Fronts have been practically doubled since the 1st August, 1914. Despite this gigantic effort, France, England and Russia, the three original Allies, have in every way, kept pace with the result that, at the present time, they still have numerical superiority. In addition it has been definitely established that the military value of the Allied armies, as constituted at the present time, is constantly on the increase, while that of the German army is unmistakably on the decline. Since the beginning of the war the new Allies that have joined France, England and Russia have far exceeded, in the reinforcements of troops which they have added to the Allied cause, those brought to Germany by the allies won over to her side. The definite figures and details of the latter will serve to give an idea, as well, of the proportionate growth of the Allies' fighting forces on the two principal fronts. On the 1st August, 1914, when Germany had mobilized to the extent that she deemed necessary to win the war, and to win it quickly, she threw on to the French and Russian Fronts 129 fighting divisions.

constituted on a basis of four regiments to the division. By first crushing France with the bulk of these, and then throwing them on to the Russian Front by means of her system of strategic railways, she counted on a quick and complete victory. By November of 1914, when the battle of the Yser was being fought, Germany had found it necessary to increase her fighting divisions, on the two fronts, to 137. In September of 1915, towards the close of the Russian campaign, the German divisions on the two fronts had been increased to 170.

By this time Germany began to feel the pressure on her four new divisions, and began the gradual transformation of her division to a basis of three regiments each, instead of four: the extra regiment thus saved went to constitute new divisions. Toward the middle of the attack on Verdun, about June, 1916, all of the German divisions had been reduced to the basis of three regiments only. By this change and by a constant fine-combing of the entire Empire for available men Germany was able to augment her divisions on the Eastern and Western fighting fronts to 178. The autumn and winter of 1916 witnessed Hindenburg's colossal effort at mobilization and creation of new divisions. His plans included the incorporation of the inhabitants of Serbia, Poland, and other conquered districts. As early as December, 1916, these efforts had permitted an increase in the fighting divisions of the two fronts to 206. By July, 1917, at the end of the French and English spring offensive, Hindenburg had attained 234 divisions. On the 1st September, at the time Germany undertook her counter-offensive on the Russian Front, a maximum of 239 fighting divisions had been thrown on to the French and Russian Fronts with the beginning of hostilities.

She now has on the two fronts 239 divisions. Owing to the fact that these latter are exclusively on a basis of three regiments to the division instead of four, as at the beginning the figures are a trifle deceptive. A more accurate idea is gained by reckoning in battalions, as these have numbered approximately 1,000 men each, although it is definitely known that hundreds are now far below this number. On this basis Germany started her campaign on the French and Russian Fronts, with 1,512 battalions. This number has now been increased to 2,334. These fighting units, of course, do not take into account the millions of men employed in the services behind the lines. The terrific increase, in the way, discouraging to Allied military authorities, because they appear to show that their own position of men in the field, and a far heavier reserve than the Japanese. Yet the moment that the difficulties of prosecuting the campaign in a successful manner were realized by the Government, peace was proposed and accepted on the spot.

Austria's mobilization effort since the beginning of the War has been more or less stationary. It is only Germany that has made the big increase. On the other hand, France, England, and Russia have all been able to keep individual pace with Germany. In addition, the new reinforcements brought to Germany by Turkey and Bulgaria are set off to an extreme degree by those brought to the Entente by Italy and Rumania, apart from the help in men yet to come from the United States. As a result the Allies to-day have an ever-increasing numerical superiority, while Germany has already passed the point where she can fill up the losses now occurring in her ranks.

## GERMANY'S MAN-POWER.

The latest estimate of German effectiveness has been presented by Mr. H. Warner Allen, who says that 4,500,000 trained men were mobilized in 1914; that 2,100,000 men were found permanently unfit; that 200,000 men of military age were abroad, and 500,000 are "indispensable." Thus 2,800,000 men are to be written off the total of 14,000,000 which he accepts as the maximum of German man-power of 11,200,000 men who were serving in 1914 or have been since called up or combined out. It is now believed that 1,899,055 were killed or missing and 2,922,890 were wounded. What proportion of the wounded may be regarded as permanently unfit is a point on which doctors differ; some would reduce the total 4,791,875 to 4,500,000, others to 4,000,000 non-effectives. But in taking the higher rate of loss we cannot avoid the conclusion that there remain at least 6,700,000 German soldiers to be disposed of by the Entente Powers, and that at the average rate of progress (about 122,000 a month) another five years will "see us through." That is, the conclusion that would be come to upon a purely mathematical basis, yet we know that it is possible to win, and win as we like, in very considerably less time than another five years. The moment a point is reached when the losing side is compelled to realize that he cannot hope to emerge from the ordeal with a sufficient show of force to demand a hearing at the peace discussion he is bound to capitulate. The arrival of any great defeat in the field, even though it might not place the entire enemy army in such a position as to be faced by the alternatives of surrender or destruction, would, in the concluding stages of such a war as the present one, compel the State to which it belonged to sue for peace on terms to be named by its adversary. The Russian army was now destroyed in Manchuria, the Russians had so many men in the field, and a far heavier reserve than the Japanese. Yet the moment that the difficulties of prosecuting the campaign in a successful manner were realized by the Government, peace was proposed and accepted on the spot.

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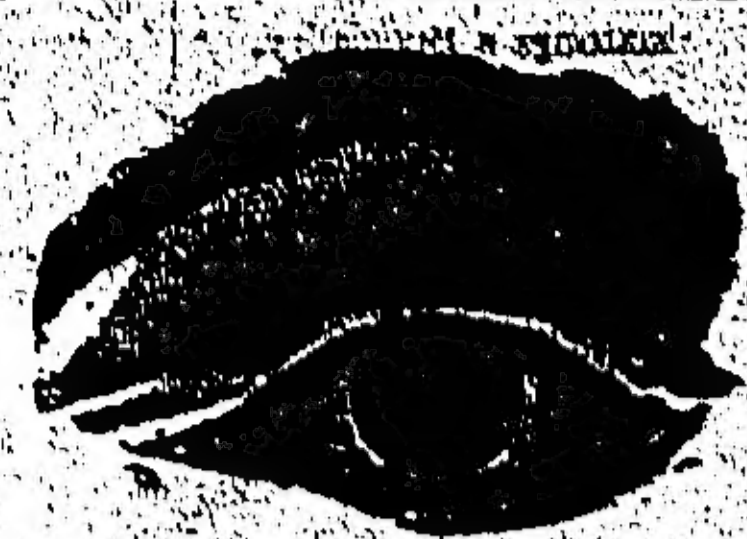
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## To-day's Advertisements

## The China Mail

NIPPON YUSEN, KAISHA.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE Consignees of Cargo from  
Europe per the Company's  
steamship,

"MISHIMA MARU,"

are hereby notified that as this steamer  
had an outbreak of fire on board while  
she was off the Canary Islands on 27th  
October, 1917, on her way to the East, it  
has been decided that the damage sus-  
tained and the expenditures incurred  
therefrom shall form a subject for  
General Average contribution. Con-  
signees are therefore requested to sign  
Average Bonds at this office and to all in  
valuation forms which may be supplied.  
The ship's agents a deposit of ONE per  
cent. (1%) of the market value of their  
respective consignments, before taking  
delivery of their goods, on ship's arrival  
here on Thursday, the 13th instant.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

Agents.

Hongkong, Dec. 13, 1917.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE Company's Steamship,

"MISHIMA MARU,"

having arrived Consignees of Cargo are  
hereby informed that their Goods are  
being landed and placed at their risk in  
the Godowns & Kowloon Wharf and  
Godown Company's Godowns at Kowloon,  
where such consignments will be sorted out  
mark by mark and delivery can be  
obtained as soon as the Goods are landed.  
Optional Goods will be carried on unless  
instructions are given to the contrary be-  
fore Noon, To-day.

Goods not cleared by the 20th Decem-  
ber, 1917, will be subject to rent.  
Damaged Packages must be left in the  
Godowns for examination by the Con-  
signee and the Co.'s representatives at  
an appointed hour on TUESDAY and  
FRIDAY. All claims must be pre-  
sented within ten days of the steamer's  
arrival here, after which date they cannot  
be recognized. No claims will be admitted  
after the goods have left the Godown.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

Agents.

Hongkong, Dec. 13, 1917.

(Continued on page 8.)

## THE CALENDAR.

### MEMOS. FOR TO-MORROW.

Prince Albert's birthday (1896).

2.30 p.m.—Auction of Household

Furniture, etc. at Messrs. Hughes

and Hough's.

5.17 p.m.—New Moon.

### GENERAL MEMORANDA.

SATURDAY, Dec. 15—

General Holiday.

2.15 p.m.—Cricket on H. K. C. C.

Ground: Club v. University.

TUESDAY, Dec. 18—

2.30 p.m.—Auction of Furniture,

Blackwood Ware, Pictures, House-

hold Goods, etc. at Messrs. Hughes

and Hough's.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 19—

1 p.m.—Army v. Navy Cricket Match

on H.K.C.C. ground.

THURSDAY, Dec. 20—

Prince George's birthday (1902).

10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.—Auction of

Toys, Xmas Trees, Crackers, etc. at

Messrs. Hughes and Hough's.

FRIDAY, Dec. 21—

Hongkong Stock Exchange Settlement

Day.

MONDAY, Dec. 24—

General Holiday.

TUESDAY, Dec. 25—

Christmas Day: General Holiday.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 26—

Boxing Day: General Holiday.

FRIDAY, Dec. 28—

President Woodrow Wilson's birthday

(1856).

5.40 p.m.—Total Eclipse of the Moon.

5.12 p.m.—Full Moon.

defenders of the Revolution" are  
fulminating about the sanctity of  
laws and the perpetual disorder which  
will arise from their infraction. If  
Kwangtung and the other provinces  
of the South West could show under  
their "independent" régime a record  
of good government and sound  
administration the Revolutionary  
organisation which is assumed to  
control them would deserve and  
command respectful attention for  
their manifestoes, but the fact patent  
to all men in China is that wherever  
the Revolutionary party are in  
control there will be found chaos and  
disorder and consequent insecurity  
of life and property, revealing their  
incapacity to govern.

## NEWS OF THE DAY.

### LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Telegraphic communication be-  
tween Shanghai and Peking has been  
restored.

Saturday, the 15th December,  
being a General Holiday, the Post  
Office will be open from 8 to 9 a.m.  
There will be one delivery of ordinary  
correspondence and one collection of  
letters from the pillar boxes. The  
Money Order Office will be entirely  
closed.

We are informed that, as a  
Thanksgiving for the surrender of  
Jerusalem, a solemn Te Deum will  
be sung at the Catholic Cathedral  
this evening (Thursday, the 13th),  
at 5.30 p.m., followed by the Benedic-  
tine of the Blessed Sacrament.  
Bishop Pozzoal will officiate, and all  
Catholics are invited to attend.

An Indian is going about among  
business firms saying that he is  
authorised to collect money for  
sports to be given in aid of wounded  
soldiers at the Front, on Boxing Day,  
by Queen's College on their ground  
at Causeway Bay. We are advised  
that the youth is an impostor, and  
should be handed over to the Police  
if caught.

The statutory and the first ordinary  
general meeting of the Far Eastern  
Insurance Co., Ltd., were held at No. 1  
The Bund, Shanghai last week. There  
were present: Messrs. Edward L. Ezra  
(Chairman), H. E. Arnold, E. T. Byrne  
and V. Meyer, Directors; Mr. W. S.  
Jackson, General Manager; Mr. H. H.  
Read, Secretary; and shareholders  
representing a total of 15,489 shares.  
The company commenced business on  
November 1st.

Mrs. Macconachie, wife of the pastor  
of Union Church, gave an interesting  
lecture on Tennyson last night in the  
Church Hall, Kennedy Road, illustrating  
her remarks by quotations from the  
poet. Miss McCubbin sang Tennyson's  
"Tears, idle tears"; Mrs. David Wood,  
"Crossing the Bar"; A. Quartette;  
"Sweet and Low"; was sung by Miss  
McCubbin, Mrs. Wood, Mr. Allen and  
Mr. Macconachie, and Mr. C. Bickling  
read Tennyson's "The Revenge."

It is now declared that there is  
now no doubt that the wireless tele-  
graphy contract made by the Chinese  
Minister of the Navy with the Danish  
firm of Larsen & Co., involves a large  
extension in China of the German  
Telefunken system which has been  
already established at Kalgan, Peking,  
Chefoo, Hankow, Shanghai and Foochow.  
It is asserted that Mr. Larsen, under the  
guise of the Danish firm of Larsen &  
Company, is really acting as the agent  
of Siemens, Schuckert, who are to supply  
the money and materials. Sir John  
Jordan, the British Minister, has  
demanded from the Chinese Government  
that the contract should be cancelled.

### UNNECESSARY WORKS.

WHY waste words and advertising  
space in describing the many  
points of merit in Chamberlain's Cough  
Remedy? The only medicine that  
cures, when we state that it cures  
colds and coughs from any cause, and  
that it contains absolutely no narcotics  
or injurious substances. For sale by  
Chambers and Sons, Ltd.

## CHINESE AFFAIRS.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

### CHINA AND THE GREAT WAR.

PERING, Dec. 12.

Replying to inquiries made by the  
French Minister, Lung Chen Chang,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated that  
no change of China's foreign  
policy was involved in the change  
of Cabinet. The despatch of troops  
by China to the European front had  
necessarily been delayed, but would  
be carried out later.

### THE PROPOSED ARMISTICE IN CHINA.

PERING, Dec. 12.

The Mandate ordering an armistice  
has been held back for reasons which  
have not been disclosed. The re-  
ported foreign intervention is con-  
tradicted.

### SEEKING A SETTLEMENT.

PERING, Dec. 12.

Special messengers have been sent  
by both the President and the  
Premier to Li Yuan Hung, the ex-  
President, who is residing at Tien-  
tsin, appealing to him to undertake  
to mediate between the North and  
South, but he declines, saying that  
he does not desire to re-enter politics.

Luk Wing Ting has telegraphed  
to the President direct that the dis-  
solution of the National Council and  
the early reassembly of Parliament  
are essential conditions of peace.  
He makes no other demands but  
recommends Mok Wing Sun as  
acting Tschun of Canton.

"The President has telegraphed to  
Li Shui instructing him to proceed  
with the peace negotiations. He at  
the same time telegraphed to two  
Northern Tschuns ordering them to  
prepare for fighting."

General Wong Jim Yuen has tele-  
graphed to Peking that negotiations  
for peace in Hunan have been  
arranged.

### FIGHTING AT SWATOW.

News received by mail from  
Swatow to-day states that the  
Cantonese troops made a surprise  
attack on Swatow at 2 a.m. on the  
10th inst.

Northern troops hold the railway  
station but the line to Chowchow  
has been cut, and so also is the  
water supply to Swatow.

The fighting was around the rail-  
way station, and the attack on  
Monday which was made by a force  
estimated at about 400 Cantonese  
was stated to be repulsed, about  
thirty of the attacking force being  
killed.

The banks of the city are closed  
and business is practically at a stand-  
still. Plenty of bullets are flying  
about.

There are three so-called Northern  
warships in the harbour but they had  
not participated in the fighting up to  
the time the mail left.

In this connection we may repro-  
duce the first paragraph of the com-  
munication we received yesterday  
from the Intelligence Bureau at  
Canton, viz: "An expeditionary  
force to Fukien to oust the Northern-  
ers there left Canton recently, march-  
ing overland. To-day another force,  
escorted by a portion of the Chinese  
Navy, is sailing for a place still un-  
disclosed." Can this be Swatow?

### CANADA AND CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

Word has just been received from the  
Deputy Minister of the Interior that on  
July 28, 1917, the Senate and House of  
Commons of Canada passed the amend-  
ment to the Chinese Emigration Act  
admitting the following two classes free,  
viz., clergymen and students going to  
Canada for the purpose of securing a  
higher education. Formerly students  
were required to deposit \$1,500, and  
although this could be refunded later, it  
was practically prohibitive. Very few  
students went to Canada, and the greater  
majority went to the United States.  
The repeal of the obnoxious legislation is  
the result of a long continued agitation,  
and was seen that the last barrier was re-  
moved. It will take some time before  
intending students throughout the 18  
provinces hear of the new openings in  
Canada, but as soon as they do, there  
will be at least some who desire a British  
education and will go to Canada to  
obtain it. — N. C. Daily News.

### THE BEST COUGH MEDICINE.

CHAMBERLAIN'S Cough Remedy is  
the best medicine for coughs, colds,  
croup, whooping cough, and all the  
coughs of childhood. It is a safe and  
effective remedy, and is sold by all  
druggists and chemists.

## FATAL ACCIDENT IN THE TYPHOON REFUGE.

A coroner's enquiry was held this after-  
noon into the circumstances touching  
the death of a Chinese boatwoman who  
was drowned during a collision between  
the launch *Shun Tai* and the deceased's  
boat at the Yaumati Typhoon Refuge  
on the 21st November last. The  
deceased was one of three persons  
drowned as a result of the accident.

Mr. Wood acted as Coroner.

Mr. Bearia appeared to watch the  
case on behalf of the coroner and the  
owner of the launch.

The husband of the deceased gave  
evidence. He stated that the last time  
he saw his wife was on his mother's  
boat on the 20th November. He learnt  
of her death the next day from the  
Police who called on him to identify  
her body.

The coxswain of the launch *Shun Tai*,  
was the next witness called. He deposed  
that at about half-past seven in the  
evening of November 21st the launch  
*Shun Tai* left Hongkong for Yaumati.  
It was then very dark and cloudy. He  
was steering the launch, which had on  
board between forty and fifty passengers.

Before he entered the Yaumati shelter  
he sounded a blast of the whistle and  
then the launch moved into the shelter  
at about quarter past eight. It was then  
that he saw an object about 100 feet  
away from the launch. He steered the  
launch to port to avoid the object. He  
did not know whether the object was  
moving or stationary, but the object  
showed no lights. It was only when the  
launch was 20 to 30 feet away that he  
discovered the object to be a boat, but  
at this time collision was unavoidable.

He did not notice any person on board  
but heard cries of "save life" when the  
collision took place. The launch was  
immediately stopped and a search was  
made for the people. He ordered the  
seamen to throw overboard lifeboats  
and to render any assistance that might  
be required. One of the sailors jumped  
into the water, but his search was fruit-  
less. After remaining at the spot for  
about twenty minutes the launch con-  
tinued on her way to the pier. When  
the launch was safely berthed witness  
went to the Police station and reported  
the accident to the Police.

After further evidence was taken the  
Coroner said no blame could be attached  
to the crew of the launch and that the  
collision was purely the result of an  
accident. The enquiry was then closed.

## SPORTING.

### CRICKET.

### HONGKONG C.C. v. UNIVERSITY.

The following will represent the Club  
in the above friendly game on the Club  
ground on Saturday, 15th inst. com-  
mencing at 12 noon—G. E. Aubrey,  
Capt. Dewar B. N., F. W. S. Evans,  
Capt. E. H. Gray, H. E. Hollands, P.  
Jackson, M. M. Mass, Major Mayhew,  
Lieut. McConnell, Lieut. H. E. Murray,  
and J. Byrne Thomson.

The following will represent the Univer-  
sity—A. B. Rumjahn (Capt.); G. E.  
Mazley, E. A. Posenoy Fane, K. Bray-  
shaw, P. M. Jack, P. A. Redmond, W.  
Gittins, J. D. Wright, D. K. Samy, G.  
Hall, and Chesh Toon Lock.

### FOOTBALL.

A match between the H.K. Defence  
Corps and a team from the Middlesex  
Regiment will be played on Saturday,  
commencing at 4 p.m.

The H.K.D.C. team is—Goldenberg;  
Cave and McCobbin; Chassell, Stewart  
and Rodgers; Wood, Gerrard, Irving,  
Macfarlane and Ralston.

### LEAGUE CRICKET.

### K.C.C. v. C.R.C.

This league match will be played on  
Saturday at Causeway Bay at 2 p.m.  
K.C.C. Team—J. P. Robinson, P. H.  
Cobb, R. Penstony, A. A. Claxton, F.  
Wheeler, L. E. S. Dodge, L. J. Black-  
burn, F. E. Joseland, A. de Sousa, R.  
E. Lindell, and J. Stalker.

All the English history that I know  
was learned from the cinema—Sir R.  
Baden-Powell.  
There is no pessimism about me. The  
Bishop of Birmingham.  
Public education to be good must be  
entirely of the whole man and not  
entirely the raising of a bookworm.  
Mr. H. A. L. Fisher.

### A GERM DESTROYER.

THERE is no danger whatever from  
a look jaw or blood poison resulting  
from a wound when Chamberlain's Pain  
Balm is promptly applied. It is an  
antiseptic and destroys the germs which  
cause these diseases. It also causes  
wounds to heal without maturation and  
in one-third the time required by the  
usual treatment. For sale by all Chemists  
and Druggists.

## THE MAGISTRACY.

### ALLEGED FRAUDULENT OPIUM LABELS.

The case was resumed this morning  
in which a licensed opium dealer of Tai  
O, New Territory, was charged with the  
illegal possession of 12 labels resembling  
those used by the Superintendent of the  
Imports and Exports Office in connection  
with government opium.

Defendant pleaded not guilty.

Mr. M. K. Lo appeared for the  
defence.

Evidence was given by Mr. L. L.  
Xavier, manager of the Hongkong  
Printing Press, who deposed that his  
firm prints opium labels for the  
Superintendent of Import and Exports.  
The labels found in the defendant's  
possession were shown him and he  
found some of them were imitations.  
He detected the imitation by the differ-  
ence in the drawing of the label, which  
in his opinion had not been made by the  
same process.

The case was again adjourned, bail  
being fixed at \$2000.

### THEFT OF WIRE NAILS.

A Chinese was charged before Mr.  
Wood this morning with the unlaw-  
ful possession of a quantity of wire nails,  
reasonably suspected to have been  
stolen.

Defendant pleaded not guilty. He  
stated that he picked the nails from a  
heap of sweepings on board a steamer.

His Worship did not believe the  
man's story and sentenced him to  
fourteen days' hard labour.

### NOBODY'S PROPERTY!

A Chinese was charged before Mr.  
Dyer Ball this morning with the  
unlawful possession of a quantity of  
iron fencing.

Inspector Browne stated that the  
fencing had been taken from a house in  
Queen's Road Central. The owner, he  
had been told, had left for Canton, but  
it was his opinion that the owner did  
not wish to prosecute.

Defendant stated that he picked the  
fencing from a house which had been  
burnt out recently. As it did not  
appear to be owned by anybody he  
thought he could appropriate it for his  
own use.

After further evidence His Worship  
remanded the case until to-morrow.

### THEFT OF A CAT.

A dirty and unkempt Chinese was  
charged before Mr. Dyer Ball this  
morning with the theft of a cat.

Defendant pleaded not guilty. He  
stated that he set traps for wild cats  
and not for domestic ones. It was not  
his fault that the cat was ensnared. He  
alleged that the owner of the animal  
struck him.

Inspector O'Sullivan stated that the  
cat had one of its legs badly injured by  
the trap. The trap was a big and ugly  
affair and large enough to hold a man.

Mr. Dyer Ball in sentencing the  
defendant to three months' hard labour  
and four hours' stocks, remarked that  
the prisoner thoroughly deserved the  
punishment for his callous indifference to  
the injuries inflicted on the poor animal.  
He regretted he had no power to  
sentence him to a severe flogging.

### RELEASED.

The elderly Chinese who was charged  
with sending a threatening letter to Mr.  
H. P. Winstow, Manager of the Kow-  
loon section of the Canton-Kowloon  
Railway, demanding the sum of \$5,000,  
was released this morning, the Police  
being unable to proceed with the case.

### HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

### MURKETHY COURSE, PART I.

Staff Inspectors Witt and Taylor,  
Nos. 504, Wessier, 672 Henderson, 707  
Yvanovich, 648 Silas, and all members  
of No. 2 Platoon who have not yet fired,  
will attend the range on Sunday next,  
the 16th inst. Leave Blake Pier 9 a.m.  
Chief Inspector Sirdar Khan, In-  
spectors Alves, Silva, Netto, O. M. S. Alves,  
Ribeiro and Botelho will attend as regis-  
ter-keepers.

PARADES / CENTRAL, 5.30 P.M.

Monday, 17th December—Nos. 3 and

4 Platoons, (No. 2 Company).

Tuesday, 18th December—Nos. 5 and

6 Platoons, (No. 3 Company).

Wednesday, 19th December—No. 2

Platoon.

Thursday, 20th December—No. 3 Com-  
pany and Ambulance Platoon, (under  
own Chief Inspector).

Friday, 21st December—No. 1 Platoon.

Rifles of Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons will be  
inspected by the Musketry Officers im-  
mediately after the fall in and before  
roll-call.

PATROL DUTY.

As from this date, Warning Officers  
will send all duty lists to this office, and  
not to the various Police Stations direct.

Warning Officers will be advised from this office  
only. This does not apply to Harbour  
Police.

F. C. JAMES, D.S.P. (R.)

## HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY.

### ANOTHER STEAMER LAUNCHED.

At Kowloon Docks yesterday after-  
noon there was launched a new vessel  
for the Siam Steam Navigation Co.,  
Ltd., Bangkok. As the vessel moved  
off Mrs. R. M. Dyer gracefully per-  
formed the christening ceremony naming  
the vessel *Sudhadit*.

The dimensions and particulars of the  
vessel are as follows:—

### DESCRIPTION OF VESSEL.

The "*Sudhadit*" is a steel single  
screw steamer of the Awaing Deck type  
with raised fore deck, boat deck amid-  
ships and aft. The principal dimensions  
are:—

Length overall.....334 ft. 6 ins.

Length B.P.....232 ft. 0 ins.

Breadth Moulded.....35 ft. 6 ins.

Depth Moulded to Awning.....20 ft. 0 ins.

Depth Moulded to Main.....13 ft. 0 ins.

A cellular double bottom extends fore

and aft, and is divided into six tanks,

two for oil cargo, one for oil fuel and

three for fresh water. The forward and

## TELEGRAMS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

## THE WESTERN FRONT.

## THE CAMBRAI FRONT.

LONDON, Dec. 12. Reuter's Correspondent at Headquarters, telegraphing to-day, says the comparative lull continues on the Cambrai front. Favoured by dry, cold weather both sides are busy digging and wiring and generally improving their respective positions. A sound of heavy shelling comes from the vicinity of Bullecourt and Lagnicourt, the significance of which it is at present impossible to say.

LONDON, Dec. 12.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—  
We successfully raided last night in the neighbourhood of Pontreue, north-west of St. Quentin.  
We repulsed a local attack northward of La Vacquerie.

## THE REVERSAL OF FORTUNE AT CAMBRAI.

## SEARCHING INQUIRY DEMANDED.

LONDON, Dec. 12.

The Times urges a prompt and searching inquiry into the reversal of fortune at Cambrai. It says Sir Douglas Haig possesses the undiminished confidence of the army and nation, but his position largely depends upon the choice of his subordinates. His weakness, if it be weakness, is in the invariable devotion of those serving him longest, some perhaps too long.

## BRUGES DOCKS AGAIN BOMBED.

LONDON, Dec. 12.

The Admiralty announces that Naval aircraft on Monday night dropped many tons of bombs on Costacker aerodrome and Bruges docks. The results at the former place were difficult to observe, but a fire was started at the Bruges docks.  
All our machines returned.

## AEROPLANE LOSSES.

LONDON, Dec. 12.

A German official announcement, received by wireless, states: The enemy lost in November 22 balloons and 205 aeroplanes, 85 of which fell behind our lines. We lost 60 aeroplanes and two balloons.

## RAW MATERIAL AFTER THE WAR.

## A WARNING TO THE ENEMY.

LONDON, Dec. 12.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law uttered a warning to our enemies that the longer the war lasted the less raw material there would be to go round, and as the Allies would help themselves first, the less there would be for Germany.

## COMMENTS ON MR. ASQUITH'S SPEECH.

LONDON, Dec. 12.

The interest with which Mr. Asquith's speech was awaited is reflected in the comments of the newspapers which are relieved to find that he did not support Lord Lansdowne, though some take exception to his explanation of the latter's letter.

The Times, which accuses Lord Lansdowne of deliberately stabbing the Government in the back, says it is exceedingly glad that Mr. Asquith is firm against all temptation to support it.

The Daily Chronicle says: Nobody who appreciated the straightness and consistency of Mr. Asquith's statesmanship could have expected a recantation of the principles he defined when he held office.

The Daily News says: Mr. Asquith has given the most precise considered declaration of war aims yet made by any European statesman.

The Daily Telegraph says: The speech shows that the resolution of the British people is utterly unmoved by the recent German military successes.

## PORTUGAL'S PRESIDENT

## ARRESTED.

LISBON, Dec. 12.

The President of the Republic has been arrested owing to his refusal to resign.

## BRITISH ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM.

## GENERAL ALLENBY'S REPORT.

LONDON, Dec. 12.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Lloyd George read a telegram from General Allenby announcing that he entered Jerusalem on foot on the 11th instant. Guards were placed round the Holy Places but the Mosque of Omar was placed under Mahommedan control.

## GERMAN HYPOCRISY.

## WHY JERUSALEM FEEL.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 12.

A German semi-official statement admits that the "evacuation" of Jerusalem was involuntary, but declares that the reason why the City fell was the Turkish-German desire to prevent "ground sacred to all God-fearing peoples becoming the scene of bloody fighting." It adds that the town is militarily worthless.

[If this is not hypocrisy it suggests that the Germans co-operating with the Turks have more respect for the sanctity of holy places than have the Germans in the French and Belgian theatres of war.]

## MEAT RESTRICTION AT HOME.

## TO COVER THE FESTIVE SEASON.

LONDON, Dec. 12.

It is officially announced that Lord Rhonda, the Food Controller, has restricted the retail sale of meat for the four weeks ending January 13th to the extent of the sales for the four weeks prior to October 27th.

## THE HALIFAX CALAMITY.

## A GIFT OF £1,000,000.

LONDON, Dec. 12.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law announced that the Government had sent a message of sympathy to Halifax and had also made a gift of £1,000,000 to the relief fund.

## GREECE'S 300,000 MEN.

## POWERFUL AID IN THE BALKANS

## IN THE SPRING.

By his courage, eloquence, and the proofs he had brought of King Constantine's guilt, Mr. Venizelos had greatly improved his position, said Professor Ronald M. Burrows, lecturing at King's College on "Greece as an Ally." The Greek Minister presided and the Serbian Minister was on the platform.

Professor Burrows declared that material aid had joined the Allies without bargaining, desiring to fulfil their obligations to others. In the letter received recently it was stated that eight out of every ten possibilities had been recruited, making up a force of from 100,000 to 150,000 men. It was hoped by the spring that Greece would have an army of 300,000 men, which would form a useful contribution, especially when it was remembered they could stand the Balkan climate, and knew the Bulgarians.

Mr. Venizelos had come into a position of great difficulty, both with regard to finance and foodstuff. Greece was not too well off, and it was important, if only as a matter of policy, for this country to see to it that the alliance with her meant abundance and not scarcity.

Greece had already produced 60,000 men to fight for us, and had given the greatest and straightest statesman in Europe to the Allies' cause.

The story of a Berlin Medical Board which held in the "New Statesman" may not be strictly historical, but the margin of error must not be exaggerated.

A recruit enters. President of the Board (to the recruit): "What the devil's the matter with you? Asthma? Cannot breathe? Rubbish! Our Hindenburg is asthmatical. Passed fit! March!"

A second recruit enters. President to second recruit: "Why do you keep your left arm like that? Lift it up, you swine! It's withered. You can't lift it. And so you think you're useless for the army. Bosh! Absolute bosh! Our Kaiser has a withered arm. Passed fit. March!"

A third recruit enters. President to third recruit: "What's the servant? What's he jibbering for? Insane? Useless for the army! Ridiculous! God in heaven! Isn't our Crown Prince? Passed fit! March! The Board will adjourn for lunch."

## THE CHILDREN'S COLDS.

WATCH the children's colds and cure them before they weaken the vitality. Use Chamberlain's Cough Remedy freely. It is perfectly safe. It has been tested by chemists and pronounced free from injurious substances and costs but a trifle. For sale by all Chemists and Druggists.

## EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

## MR. ASQUITH ON OUR WAR AIMS.

LONDON, Dec. 12.

Mr. Asquith, speaking at Birmingham, said: History would ask: Was it worth Great Britain's while to enter the war? He answered undoubtedly and unhesitatingly "Yes, only provided the war ended in a peace securing the attainment in itself of the safeguards of its own permanence." Such a peace had become the world's supreme need and there was no greater enemy of humanity than anyone who, by word or act, made it more difficult to achieve. After affirming that he had nothing to take away from his recent speeches at Leeds and Liverpool regarding Britain's war aims, and that President Wilson in his recent address to Congress had arrived by the same route at practically the same conclusion, Mr. Asquith referred to Lord Lansdowne's letter. He paid a tribute to Lord Lansdowne's patriotism, and declared that he had no personal knowledge, than any member of the Government of the letter until it was published and he had no responsibility whatever for its terms. He expressed the opinion that much of the criticism of the letter arose from reading into it meanings and intentions which he did not understand it to convey.

He thought that Lord Lansdowne's main argument was that the Allies, while carrying on the war vigorously, should endeavour to make it increasingly clear that our war aims were rational and unselfish; that these were the aims for which we entered the war, and that by attaining them we were convinced that we might look for a durable peace safeguarded by the conjoint authority of an International League.

In the words of President Wilson, the aim was to bring into effective existence that partnership, not merely of Governments, but of peoples, which must henceforth guarantee the world's peace. Even now there was abundant evidence that the enemy peoples were kept in the dark regarding our real purposes, both for war and peace. He would continue to do what he could to raise the veil and let in, if possible, some rays of light.—(Cheers.)

Mr. Asquith recalled his declaration at the Guildhall in November, 1914, that we would not sheathe the sword until the military domination of Prussia was wholly and finally destroyed.—(Loud cheers.) He emphasised our agreement with President Wilson's declaration that nobody threatened the existence, independence and peaceful enterprise of Germany. None of the Allies sought to prescribe the internal constitution and arrangements of the future of Germany.

What we were concerned with was the system which upheld itself free in the pursuit of its supposed interests to the agencies of the hour, the most solemn pact. This system must end. Germany must learn, as I believe she is learning that as a matter of business, apart from sentiment and ethics, the system does not pay.—(Loud cheers.) We do not have and do not desire to have any quarrel, internecine and perpetual, with the German nation.

We acknowledge the contribution they have made, and we believe will continue to make, to the common stock of knowledge, research, invention and material and intellectual resources. But if there is to be a real enduring pact it must be something more than paper documents. Another misconception is that the Allies, especially Britain, are aiming at destruction for their own political and economic objects of what is vaguely called "the freedom of the seas." In peace time the seas are open to the marine of all nations. What stipulation would Britain propose in the peace terms to curtail or fetter that immemorial right? That formula can only be used to indicate a new limitation in war time upon the belligerent rights of a Power which happens to command the sea.

No corresponding limitation is suggested for a land war. Where existing conventions of the most solemn character have been systematically violated by the enemy, it is worth considering whether something ought not to be done to secure freedom of the seas from the prosecution of a lawless and infamous submarine campaign with its ruthless sacrifice of innocent life. No peace will come the name which permits a veiled war to be carried on by other methods. He endorsed the words of President Wilson "to base peace on generosity and justice."

## ANOTHER FRENCH SENSATION.

## PROSECUTION OF M. CAILLAUX

## UNDER CONSIDERATION.

PARIS, Dec. 12.

The Government has informed the Chamber that the Military Governor of Paris has requested the immediate withdrawal of M. Caillaux's parliamentary immunity.

At the instance of the Military Governor of Paris the Chamber is considering the prosecution of ex-President Caillaux who is accused of treason, dealings with the enemy and pacifist propaganda. A committee will be appointed to decide whether he shall be tried by court martial or the Senate.

The Chamber is also considering the accusation of Deputy Loustolot, who is accused of dealings with the enemy. It is alleged he met the ex-Khedive of Egypt in a neutral country.

## THE SILVER MARKET.

LONDON, Dec. 12.

Silver is quoted at 12½ per ounce. The market is quiet.

## THE WESTERN FRONT.

## AIR-RAID ON GERMANY.

LONDON, Dec. 12.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, reporting an aviation, says:—  
The enemy's machines were particularly active on Monday westward of Cambrai, repeatedly attacking our artillery and machine gun positions. Our machines dropped many bombs and fired many machine gun rounds at villages, haystacks and trenches. Three of ours are missing.

Our machines in fine weather this morning started for the purpose of bombing certain factories in Germany, but found that their objectives were obscured by clouds. Seeing a clear gap north-east they proceeded thither and further recognised a large railway junction north-eastward of Pirmasels and bombed it. All returned.

## SUCCESSFUL RAID BY SHERWOOD FORESTERS.

LATER.

The Sherwood Foresters made a successful raid in the afternoon westward of Hulluch, taking a number of prisoners. A hostile raiding party was repulsed, early in the morning southward of Armentieres.

## THE FRENCH FRONT.

LONDON, Dec. 12.

A French communiqué says:—There is moderate reciprocal artillery activity on the greater part of the Front.

## THE RUSSIAN SITUATION.

## COLLISION BETWEEN OPPOSING FORCES.

LONDON, Dec. 12.

Reuter's Correspondent at Petrograd, telegraphing last night, says the Military Revolutionary Committee has invited the people to demonstrate tomorrow with inflammatory watchwords. The outlook is most ominous.

The Maximilian organ Pravda announces that the first collision between the Maximilians and 4000 of General Korniloff's followers has taken place with machine guns near Bielskograd. No result is given.

It is stated that Black Sea naval detachments accompanied delegations sent to General Kaledin, who arrested one of the delegations. General Kaledin has issued a stern warning against the Black Sea naval men interfering with the autonomy of Cossack territories.

## THE CAPTURE OF JERUSALEM.

LONDON, Dec. 12.

Today's celebrations of the capture of Jerusalem included a Te Deum at St. Paul's Cathedral, which has never been so crowded at an unofficial service since the war began.

A special service was held at Liverpool in the Central Synagogue and there was ringing of bells at the Roman Catholic Church at Llanston.

## A GERMAN VIEW.

A message from Amsterdam states that the "Kölnische Volkszeitung" admits that the capture of Jerusalem is a great moral British victory.

## PANAMA CANAL ZONE.

## CLEARED OF THE ENEMY.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.

The Republic of Panama has declared war upon Austria-Hungary and the Austrians have been interned. The Canal zone is now cleared of Austrians and Germans.

## THE FLOODS OF NORTH CHINA.

## [From "The Far Eastern Review"]

Vast areas in Chihli Province and in other provinces have been inundated this summer by the failure of rivers to carry their annual burdens of rain water to the sea, and the failure can be attributed to the lack of systematic attention to conservancy work by Chinese officials in the past. But less deplorable, the haphazard erection by villagers of hundreds of thousands of small dykes, the result of a scientific direction, the callous indifference of the governments of the past to the teachings of early flood lessons are solely responsible for the great toll in lives, in property, and in money, which the waters now are taking. The policy of previous governments of allowing poverty to take care of itself is prolifically bearing its fruits of bitterness.

No recent government can escape responsibility for the disaster, by pleading lack of knowledge of conditions. Two phetic warnings have been made many times in the past decade by responsible foreign engineers by foreign residents in, or travellers through, the affected areas, and by writers of every nationality whose eyes have seen, whose intelligence have been awakened, and whose hearts have been moved by close and painful proximity to the sufferings of the people whose homes and crops over vast areas have been buried deep in silt and sand in a night, as it were, and hundreds of thousands of whom have been drowned or starved to death by regular famine in the devastated regions.

Before the railway system reached the stage at which it now stands, great disasters were little known to the outside world, and the area of suffering could be restricted only with difficulty. Losses of millions of lives would be accepted as the inexorable law of nature operating to regulate population in the land of plural wives and prolific child birth, and when the untold toll of lives outside the world could not care. But as soon as conditions arose enabling the poverty of periodic flood and famine seasons to be realized by the European residents in the country, a new and deadly disease of international dimensions was born, and this time and crystallized in all events, consistently urged the government to take some steps which a view to

and the interest of the officials. With each recent great disaster there have been millions of dollars spent on relief work, mostly contributed by foreigners, great plans for preventive work have been made, but with the diminution of the distress effected by the distribution of relief came a collateral diminution in the desire for the undertaking of permanent preventive works. Plans have been allowed to become dust-covered in the limbo of forgotten things, and officials have lapsed into peaceful indifference of public questions until suddenly accused by some new assertion of preposterous nature's right to punish the procrastinating human.

So the Chihli floods have come again. But this time with a difference. Where they have merely affected the native before, they have this time very boldly and badly hit the foreigner, and because of this it is certain that the Government will be forced to take action where hitherto it has been able to ignore the claims of the common people. Because the flood waters have menaced Tientsin the great population in the valleys of the untrammelled rivers will have a chance at last of permanent protection, for the time has come when the Government must be compelled by foreign influence if not by realization of the claims of the tax-paying people who have been ruined to undertake an effective scheme of conservancy, which will embrace all of the northern rivers at least.

The disaster, which has involved Tientsin, is due solely to the deforestation of the regions forming the watershed of the four or five rivers concentrating near Tientsin to use the channel of the Hai-Ho to the sea, and the unscientific dyking of the country through which they flow. The main waterways concerned are the Peiho, the Hunho, the Tachung, the Huiashih, and the Yuh, or Grand Canal. The first four come from the spurs of western Chihli Province and Shansi Province. Thence they tear down the steep gradients, unrestrained by any plant growth bringing with them millions of tons of sand and soil annually. They distribute with lavish prodigality over tens of thousands of square miles at different times. The heavier detritus, such as stones and gravel, is deposited over the erstwhile fertile regions at the base of the mountains, and the silt is transferred in suspension for thousands of miles to the sea, where the waters become stiller. The dykes or obstructions, it is deposited on the land. This year in the Hsinmintun district of Manchuria the Liao River floods deposited ten feet of sand over great areas, burying villages, and devastating white-stubble of fertile land. The rivers concentrating on Tientsin have inundated over fifteen thousand square miles, wiping out villages by the thousand and homes by the million, destroying crops estimated at a low figure to the total value of from \$70,000,000 to \$100,000,000, and homes calculated at only \$3-a-house, to the value of \$30,000,000. This is an extremely conservative estimate, for it does not take into consideration personal effects or farm property or animals. These items, added to the foreign loss of property and trade at Tientsin must make the figures in the ultimate reckoning stupendous. Yet it is certain that the whole of the disaster could have been averted by intelligent processes, if applied in recent years only, for a sum totaling half of the damage caused by the Chinese farmers alone.

How the harnessing of the recalcitrant streams is now to be effected is being considered by the engineers concerned in the protection of Tientsin, but unhappily the task presented to those competent to deal with the matter door after the horse has taken to his heels. For some years now Mr. Vanderveen, Consulting Engineer to the Chinese National Conservancy Bureau, has been urging the Government to take in hand the problem of dyke breaking. (The Chinese call the Chinese for River) since that river's activities in flood-time materially affects the procedure of several others, the Hunho and the Haiho (on which Tientsin is built) in particular. The Hunho has brought down silt from the mountains west of Peking in such great quantities that it has raised its own bed in places some 20 feet above the surrounding country, and when breaks occur in the dyke it also raises the area which it floods, the whole assuming the seriousness of dyke breaking. To overcome the chief difficulties and save the port of Tientsin from floods such as those now being experienced, Mr. Vanderveen recommended the Government to undertake work calculated to provide the sea with a separate outlet to make the figures in the ultimate reckoning stupendous. Yet it is certain that the whole of the disaster could have been averted by intelligent processes, if applied in recent years only, for a sum totaling half of the damage caused by the Chinese farmers alone.

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## KERENSKY'S MARRIAGE.

## A CURIOSITY STORY.

Mr. A. M. Thompson, editor of the "Clarion," who has been acting as a special correspondent at Stockholm, says:

—Kerensky will not have improved his standing in the love and favour of respectabilities by his sudden divorce from his wife and his hasty marriage with his wife's relative in the apartments in the Winter Palace. The kind of thing is regarded as romantic in the lives of Kings and Emperors, but it is not generally approved in persons not specially brought up to it. He does his many things which are not exactly nice. Kerensky, who has watched his "federal" progress with fascinating awe, found my belief in the man staggered when I saw him attended at the Moscow Embassy by a military and a naval aide-de-camp, who stood behind him and through the long hours of the day looked like the bodyguard of a monarch, and pompous potentates. On the other hand I never saw as much as ever of the pompous, temporary management of the chattering elements assembled there.

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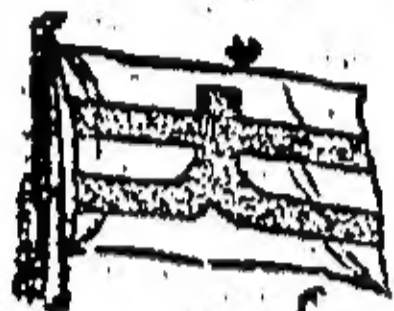
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Superintendent.  
Hongkong, Nov. 23, 1917. 2215

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